

MINUTES OF MEETING  
August 30, 2010

A work session of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held on Monday, August 30, 2010 at the Whitfield Career Academy. Board Chairman Tim Trew called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Present were the following board members:

Tim Trew – Chairman  
Gary Brock – Vice Chairman  
Thomas Barton  
John Thomas

Board Member Jerry Nealey was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes	Richard Schoen
Dusty Brown	Judy Gilreath
Eric Beavers	Audrey Williams
Janie Osborn	Kenny Sheppard

Also present:

A list of the public attending is a part of the backup minutes.

**Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance**

Cody Sharpe, a tenth grade student at the Whitfield Career Academy, gave the inspiration. He described how he had Asperger's which caused him to be very organized. He said the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Academy helped him because he loved doing the projects which allowed him to use his organizational skills. He said he had also learned to be more social. Cody shared that the teachers will do whatever it takes to help the students learn. Cody then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Instructional Report – Whitfield Career Academy**

Serena Hernandez, a tenth grade student at the Whitfield Career Academy, informed the board the students would be spotlighting two items during the presentation. The first would be what it was like the first couple of weeks at the Whitfield Career Academy and the second would be the Presentation of Learning that would be occurring in December.

First Couple of Weeks

Ninth grader, Hannah Yarbrough described that she was nervous and excited the first few days of school. She shared that on the first day the students jumped into the first project which helped with her nervousness and made her feel welcomed.

Yuleyka Nunez said that on the first day she analyzed the artwork that was on display in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Academy. She made a decision that she wanted to work hard so that her artwork would also be displayed and that her face would be on the scholar wall.

Dylan Grooms showed a piece of artwork he had produced that described him. He explained how the teachers pushed the students to do the best work that they could. He said the teachers did not sit behind a desk and that this was a new and better school experience for him. He described how he was normally shy but was inspired by his teachers to be more outgoing.

Serena said the freshmen are mentored by the sophomores, which makes them feel more comfortable. She added it also helps the sophomores develop their leadership skills.

#### Presentation of Learning, Project 3-D

Hannah shared that her 3-D project would be a three dimensional piece of artwork that would be tied to academics. She said it would be related to social issues around the world.

Yuleyka reiterated that academics are an essential part of the 3-D projects. She added that all subject areas are incorporated in the projects. She described how the projects were graded differently in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Academy. She said you could receive an A or a B, a “not yet”, or an “F”. She said if you received the “not yet” grade you get to keep trying until you do your best. If you receive an “F” you would be fired and pulled away from the Project Based Learning until you can prove you are ready to do your best work.

Dylan invited everyone to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Presentation of Learning at the Whitfield Career Academy on December 7<sup>th</sup>. He added that people would not expect to see this much work this soon.

Cassandra Dennis, a tenth grade student, described the new Presentation of Learning project. She said it would be called, *Service Carnival for Everyday Heroes*. She said it would be entertaining, creative, and would involve community service. She added how the tenth graders were helping their teachers learn more about project based learning and pushing the teachers to push them harder. Cassandra presented the Whitfield County Board of Education with artwork created by student Tyler Cochran.

#### **Whitfield Career Academy Board of Director’s Report**

Tim Fleming, principal of the Whitfield Career Academy, shared information about the new Whitfield Career Academy Charter. He also named the members of the Board of Directors. They are as follows:

Tim Campbell, Campbell Printing  
Russ Brown, Mohawk Industries  
Larry Harrison, Cohutta Bank  
Tammy Horn, IVC Group  
Brian Cooksey, Shaw Industries

Ex-Officio:  
Jodi Johnson, DSC  
Dr. John Schwenn, DSC  
Brian Anderson, Chamber of Commerce  
Tim Fleming, WCA  
Stephanie Hungerpiller, WCA  
Danny Hayes, WCS

Mr. Fleming shared how the Board of Directors had the opportunity to see the quality of work the students were producing and added that the students needed to have opportunities to speak and present to adults. He described how there are plans for a two week immersion of students into a business environment. Students would present to business and industry members to be chosen to work at their businesses for the two week period. The business and industry leaders would be encouraged to let the students use their talents, which would be beneficial to the companies and to the students.

He informed the board that the Whitfield Career Academy staff members and students were working on a web development that would be used to help market the school and get parents more involved.

## **Georgia School Board Association Liability Insurance**

John Shore, with the Risk Management Division of the Georgia School Boards Association, presented the board with information on the need to require outside agencies to provide documentation of liability insurance to the school system when using school facilities. He gave several examples of activities that would require the insurance documentation. Mr. Shore informed the board the Georgia School Boards' Association would soon make available direct coverage that would be available on their website.

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, said this was not intended to be a money maker for the school system or for the Georgia School Boards Association. He said the outside agencies could use any insurance company they prefer. Mr. Schoen assured the board members the school system would request the required insurance coverage before allowing outside agencies to use the school system facilities.

## **Approval to Advertise Millage Rate**

Superintendent Hayes recommended the board give approval to advertise the Analysis of 5 Year Tax Digest and Millage Rate document. Mr. Hayes said the millage rate would remain at 14.756 mils. Mr. Sheppard said there was a more than anticipated decrease in funds because of the property reassessments and the Freeport Tax Exemption. Mr. Sheppard explained the document would be advertised for fourteen days, August 31 - September 13, 2010. Gary Brock moved approval and John Thomas seconded. Mr. Trew said it was a tough environment and economy and that the board was not willing to pass a tax increase on to the county residents. Mr. Hayes said the system did a great job projecting the budget but added things would be tight and there would not be room for any extras. The board approved 4-0.

## **Review Board Agenda Items**

The superintendent reviewed and discussed with the board members the September 13, 2010 board agenda items.

## **Construction Report**

Keith Burran with M.B. Kahn Construction Management Company informed the board that big changes were taking place at Coahulla Creek High School. He said the air conditioning should be installed in October, sheetrock was being hung, plumbing and electrical work was occurring, the transformers were being set at the ball fields for exterior lighting, and they were prepping the grass on the fields. Mr. Burran added the concession building was in place and would soon be ready to be dried in. Mr. Burran and other staff members met with county officials on the Eastbrook Middle and the Whitfield Career Academy projects. He said there had also been meetings with Eastbrook Middle facility personnel and their suggestions had been incorporated into the design of the school.

## **Bullying Program**

Mike Ewton, safety and security director, helped present information about the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. He explained that bullying was detrimental to the learning environment. He shared that Sherri Travisano, principal of Dawnville Elementary, was a nationally certified trainer in this program. Tracie Hogan is currently going through the two year training to become a certified trainer as well. Ms. Hogan gave an overview of the program. The description of bullying is when someone on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself. She explained that there are three items that can identify bullying and they are a form of aggression, a pattern of repeated behavior over time, and in imbalance of power or strength. Sherri Travisano shared how Dawnville Elementary and New Hope Middle, who piloted this program, did a computer based survey last year. She said the results mirrored the national data. She said the program can be designed around what works for the students in the Whitfield County School System as long as they include the components of the Olweus Program. She said one of the goals is to give bystanders the tools and voice to make a difference and added that parent buy-in is critical. She added that her previous school district where the program had been used, had shown a significant attendance rate increase and also had an 80% gain in student achievement.

Improved attendance and achievement rates are indicators of a successful program. Mr. Ewton added there would be two additional schools trained in the fall and two more in the spring, adding it would take three to four years to completely implement the program throughout the school system.

### **Hearing of Individuals**

None

### **Executive Session**

The superintendent recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel. John Thomas moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Present were the following board members:

Tim Trew – Chairman  
Gary Brock – Vice Chairman  
Thomas Barton  
John Thomas

Board Member Jerry Nealey was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes     Judy Gilreath  
Dusty Brown     Audrey Williams  
Richard Schoen   Janie Osborn

### **Return to Regular Session**

The board having taken no action in executive session, returned to regular session at 1:38 p.m.

### **Board Member Comments**

- Request to follow up on the eligibility of non-districted students at Coahulla Creek High School

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

August 2, 2010

The regular meeting of the Whitfield County Board of Education was held at the Whitfield County Central Office on August 2, 2010. Board Vice Chairman Gary Brock called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

### **Executive Session**

Superintendent Danny Hayes recommended the board move into executive session to discuss personnel and land. John Thomas moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Present were the following board members:

Gary Brock – Vice Chair  
Thomas Barton  
Jerry Nealey  
John Thomas

Board Member Tim Trew was absent.

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes	Audrey Williams
Dusty Brown	Judy Gilreath
Richard Schoen	Janie Osborn

### **Return to Regular Session**

The board having taken no action in executive session returned to regular session at 11:53 a.m... Gary Brock called the meeting to order.

Present were the following board members:

Gary Brock  
Thomas Barton  
Jerry Nealey  
John Thomas

Also present were the following staff members:

Danny Hayes	Kenny Sheppard
Eric Beavers	Audrey Williams
Dusty Brown	Judy Gilreath
Richard Schoen	Janie Osborn

Board Member Tim Trew was absent.

Also present:

A list of the public attending is a part of the backup minutes.

### **Moment of Silent Reflection**

Mr. Brock asked everyone to observe a moment of silent reflection.

### **Inspiration/Pledge of Allegiance**

Lisa Jones, principal of Varnell Elementary, discussed “Dreams” as her inspiration. She said she always knew she wanted to be a teacher and that when she became a teacher it fulfilled her dreams and filled her spirit. She added that when she became a principal her dream took a different path but was still her dream. Mrs. Jones shared that there is a profound correlation between her dream of teaching students and what the Whitfield County School System is doing for its students and staff members. Teachers and staff members are letting students know they are cared about by making the effort to know the student’s history and their interests. Mrs. Jones stated the school system can’t ask children to meet the standards unless their needs are met as well. The students need a safe environment and to feel as if they can share their passion as well. Mrs. Jones added staff members also need a safe environment. They need to understand it is safe for failure adding she has learned the most through her own failures. She added from those failures they need to ask themselves what could have been done differently to be successful. She believes it’s not about making a 100 but learning through experiences that make you become a better person and learner. Mrs. Jones also discussed the collaboration that is occurring in the school system. She said there are positive attitudes that keep you from failing and that everyone needs the collaboration to have the opportunity to verbalize their thoughts and feelings. She added that individually we may not have all of the answers but to go through problem solving situations with others helps find the answers. Mrs. Jones said portfolios produced by the teachers showcase the hard work of the teachers and students and encourage the experience of presenting. She added the portfolios verify what you learned and help you see areas that may need more work. She ended by saying when dreams are fulfilled the sky is the limit. She added the

students are our first priority and the desire is for them to leave the Whitfield County School System feeling successful. Mrs. Jones then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Welcome/Recognition/Presentations**

Mr. Brock welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the Consent Agenda items listed below. Thomas Barton moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 4-0.

Approval of Minutes – July 19 and July 26, 2010

Approval of Agenda – August 2, 2010

Purchase Orders over \$25,000

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Waste Services of GA July-June	Garbage service FY2011	119,501.76

School Fund Raiser Requests

<u>Name of Group or Sponsor</u>	<u>Activity or Request</u>
Southeast Whitfield Band	Host University of Georgia Georgette Dance Team

### **Hearing of Individuals**

None

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Teaching and Learning Reports and Recommendations**

Whitfield Career Academy Presentation

Lillian Sanchez, Tyler Cochran, Zenaida Torres, and Jon O’Quinn, students in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Academy at the Whitfield Career Academy, along with teachers Lisa Barber and Ben Williams presented information to the board members about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Academy. Mr. Williams began the presentation explaining the teachers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Academy co-teach while using Product Based Learning which targets individual learning styles as well as targeting student passions. He shared that they have three design principals when designing instruction. They are as follows:

1. Common Mission – The goal is to equip students with what is needed to go to college. He said there is a college for every interest and they feel every student needs higher learning and can obtain that goal. They want their students to also become outstanding members of society.
2. Expose and give students opportunities for real work connections.
3. Personalize instruction and provide the flexibility to personalize projects. He explained the students like to have input on how the standards are taught and that they have to prove the standards are being taught. They are encouraged to design as many opportunities as possible which drive the students to do their best.

Mrs. Barber stated the students demonstrated great work last year. She said she felt she didn't have to be an expert and know everything, which allowed her to treat students as producers not consumers. The teachers provided the students with channels, technology, paints, pens, and paper and allowed them to create and present. She said to hear their passion was exciting and to see that the students could critique and revise their work was rewarding. Mrs. Barber added the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Academy teachers had been busy planning a 3-D project for next year that would incorporate an exciting way of learning but would also tie in all academic areas.

Jon O'Quinn said in his past school experience he had done a lot of work and worksheets but that none of the work met the standard of the work he is currently doing. He explained how he is very proud of all of the work he is producing and said it had meaning.

Tyler Cochran shared the posters he did for the trailers of the film documentaries that were written and presented during the last school year. He reiterated that academics are tied into all of the work the students do. He said his posters were the result of studies from a history class. He added that he had to argue his case as to why he wanted to paint what he had chosen and show his passion. He said he had to write a story which involved language and writing and that he also used technology to produce his product. He said he experienced a new level of learning that was truly engaging and fun. Tyler and Zenaida also shared the process for the documentaries that were produced for the second Presentation of Learning. Zenaida described how the students were asked to write down issues of the community. The students then had to choose their project and write down their resources. Tyler and Zenaida said by doing their documentaries they learned about the real world while using the academic standards.

## **Operations Reports and Recommendations**

### Construction Update

Richard Schoen, assistant superintendent of operations, reminded the board the construction update had been given at the work session and asked the board members if they had any additional questions.

### Redistricting Recommendation

Richard Schoen presented the recommendation from the Redistricting Committee as follows:

The Committee recommends that the Coahuilla Creek High School district lines be drawn to conform to the existing district lines for North Whitfield Middle School. This district configuration will mean that North Whitfield Middle will be the only middle school that is a feeder school for Coahuilla Creek High School. The Northwest Whitfield High School district lines are to be redrawn to conform with the combined district boundaries of New Hope Middle and Westside Middle School. This will mean that New Hope and Westside Middle Schools will be the feeder schools for Northwest High School. The Southeast Whitfield High School district lines will be redrawn to conform to the combined district boundaries of Eastbrook Middle School and Valley Point Middle School. This means that Eastbrook and Valley Point Middle Schools will be the feeder schools for Southeast High School. This vote was a unanimous 12-0 vote.

The superintendent recommended the board approve the recommendation of the Redistricting Committee. Jerry Nealey moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### Substitute School Nutrition Workers

Mr. Schoen shared with the board members that the school nutrition department had used Ashton Staffing for temporary help for two years and had been satisfied with their service. He said Ashton Staffing had submitted the only bid and that they had also decreased their cost per hour by \$.48. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the recommendation to accept the services of temporary staffing by Ashton Staffing. Jerry Nealey moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 4-0.

## **Financial Reports and Recommendations**

### General Funds and ESPLOST Reports

Kenny Sheppard, chief financial officer, gave the board an update on the General Funds and ESPLOST Reports as of July 31, 2010. Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the financial reports as presented. Thomas Barton moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 4-0. These reports are a part of these minutes.

### **Human Resources Reports and Recommendations**

#### Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the personnel actions as discussed in executive session to include certified personnel changes, resignations, retirements, leaves of absences, long term substitutes, extended day and other personnel changes. The superintendent also recommended the board approve support personnel recommendations, resignations, retirements, and other support personnel changes in this action. Jerry Nealey moved approval and John Thomas seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### **Previous Business**

#### Second Reading of Board Policy GCRGB: Classified Personnel Sick Leave

The superintendent recommended approval of the second reading of Board Policy GCRGB: Classified Personnel Sick Leave. Mr. Hayes said this policy change is the result of the Whitfield County School System doing away with the Sick Leave Bank. John Thomas moved approval and Thomas Barton seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### **New Business**

#### First Reading of Board Policy CGPGB: Administrative Personnel Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes recommended the board approve the first reading of Board Policy CGPGB: Administrative Personnel Sick Leave. Mr. Hayes explained this was an additional policy that needed to be changed because the school system would no longer have a Sick Leave Bank. Thomas Barton moved approval and Jerry Nealey seconded. The board approved 4-0.

### **Board Member Comments**

- Mr. Brock asked everyone to be in prayer for students and staff members as school begins.
- Mr. Hayes reminded everyone that Larry Rosenstock, one of the founders of High Tech High in San Diego, California, would be presenting information about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Academy.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.